

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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S E C R E T STATE 089288

EXDIS FROM UNA

FOL RPT MOGADISCIO 740 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
INFO ADDIS ABABA, LAGOS, MOSCOW, NAIROBI
DTD 061120Z APR 78

QUOTE: S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 0740

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, ET, SO, US
SUBJ: SIAD STILL SEEKING TANGIBLE USG SUPPORT

REFS: A) STATE 088087; B) MOGADISCIO 0717

1. I MET WITH PRESIDENT SIAD THIS MORNING, APRIL 6, AND TOLD HIM THAT WE WRE RAISING WITH THE SOVIET, CUBAN, AND ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENTS THE SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE ATTACKS ON SOMALI TERRITORY. I INCLUDED A REFERENCE TO OUR PERCEPTION OF A MORE LIMITED ATTACK ON SOMALI TERRITORY THAN HE FORESAW. I ALSO WENT INTO CONSIDERABLE DETAIL ON THE ADVERSE EFFECT CONTINUED GSDR MORAL AND
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MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR THE WSLF WOULD HAVE. AT THE CLOSE OF MY PRESENTATION, WHICH ALSO INCLUDED THE GENERAL POINTS IN SUPPORT OF THE OAU MEDIATION, AND THE DESIRABILITY ANY FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS PURSUANT TO THE SPECIAL EMISSARY'S MISSION, BUT ANTICIPATED WORD SHORTLY. SO THAT THERE COULD BE NO POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING OF WHAT I HAD SAID, I LEFT WITH SIAD A NON-PAPER INCORPORATING MY TALKING

POINTS MINUS ANY REFERENCE TO THE ANTICIPATED INSTRUCTIONS.
I ASKED HIM IF HE COULD INFORM ME WHAT THE GSDR'S VIEWS
WERE ON THE OAU MEETING AT LAGOS.

2. SIAD DID NOT REGISTER ANY ENTHUSIASM FOR A POSSIBLE OAU
MEETING. HE CONTENDED THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE
MEETING REQUIRED ATTENDANCE BY THE HEADS OF STATE. ALL THAT
FOREIGN MINISTERS COULD DO, HE SAID, WAS TO AGREE UPON AN
AGENDA. SEEMINGLY THINKING OUT LOUD, SIAD SAID QTE WE KNOW
NOTHING CAN BE EXPECTED AS LONG AS THE SOVIETS HAVE A ROLE.
UNQTE. BUT WE ARE ALWAYS READY TO TALK, HE CONTINUED, AND
WE ARE PREPARED TO SEND OUR FOREIGN MINISTER TO LAGOS.

3. TURNING TO THE MESSAGE I CONVEYED, SIAD SAID HE WAS
GRATEFUL FOR THE REPLY TO HIS APPEAL, BUT HE FOUND IT DID
NOT CORRESPOND TO SOMALIA'S NEEDS. HE SAID THERE WAS A
GROWING BELIEF IN SOMALIA THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS ACCEPTED
SOVIET DOMINATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND DECIDED TO
ABANDON SOMALIA. HE SAID HE HAD ASKED SPECIAL EMISSARY
MOOSE MANY TIMES IF THE US EMBARGO ON SUPPORT FROM FRIENDLY
COUNTRIES TO SOMALIA COULD NOT BE LIFTED, BUT HE STILL HAD
NO RESPONSE. WARMING TO HIS ARGUMENT, SIAD CONTINUED: QTE
THE CREDIBILITY OF THE SOVIET UNION IN AFRICA IS SKY HIGH.
ARE YOU ENCOURAGING ME TO GO TO MOSCOW AND BEG THEM
(FOR A SETTLEMENT)? UNQTE. THE SOMALI LEADER SAID HE
COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE WEST WAS PUSHING THE
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AFRICANS TO CONDEMN SOMALIA. HE SAID WE ARE ONLY ASKING
WE NOT BE DEPRIVED OF AN ABILITY TO DEFEND OURSELVES.

4. SIAD'S RESPONSE TO THE COMMENT ON RELATIONS WITH THE
WSLF WAS ALONG FAMILIAR LINES. HE ARGUED HE HAD NO CONTROL
OVER THE WSLF WHICH HE ASSERTED HAD MORE MEN AND WEAPONS
INCLUDING QTE CAPTURED AMERICAN WEAPONS UNQTE THAN THE
SOMALI NATIONAL ARMY. HE SAID HE WAS POWERLESS TO INFLUENCE
THEIR ACTIVITY IN TERRITORY IN WHICH THEY LIVED AND FOUGHT
SUCCESSFULLY AGAINST THEIR ETHIOPIAN OVERLORDS. HE ADDED
THAT THE NATIONAL ARMY COULD HARDLY KEEP THE WSLF OUT OF
"WESTERN SOMALIA" IF ITS UNITS CHOSE TO BE THERE. THE
BORDER WAS TOO LONG, AND HIS MILITARY RESOURCES TOO LIMITED.
MOREOVER, HE SAID HE SIMPLY COULD NOT BECOME THE AUTHOR OF
A FRATRICIDAL STRUGGLE WHICH WOULD TEAR SOMALIA APART.

5. ON TAKING LEAVE OF SIAD I REMINDED HIM THAT JOE KRAFT
WAS EXPECTED ON SUNDAY AND I HOPED HE WOULD KEEP THE
APPOINTMENT TO SEE HIM (PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED BY ADDOU).
IN REPLY, SIAD STATED OF COURSE HE WOULD SEE KRAFT BUT
QTE WE ARE BEYOND THE USE OF PUBLIC OPINION IN APPEALING
DECISIONS. WHAT IS NOW REQUIRED IS FOR LEADERS TO MAKE

THE REQUIRED DECISIONS. UNQTE

6. COMMENT: SIAD RECEIVED ME WITH UNUSUAL DISPATCH THIS MORNING. WHEN I ARRIVED THE COMPOUND WAS FILLING WITH CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS GATHERING FOR THEIR REGULAR THURSDAY SESSION. GENERAL SAMATAR WAS ALREADY PRESENT. I SAW THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON MY WAY OUT. SIAD, HOWEVER, WAS CALM AND UNHURRIED DURING OUR MEETING. HE HEARD MY POINTS PATIENTLY, BUT WAS marginally MORE HEATED IN HIS RESPONSE THAN HE USUALLY IS. HE WAS DISAPPOINTED IN OUR RESPONSE AND DID NOT LIKE THE BURDEN OF MY ARGUMENTS. SIGNIFICANTLY, HE DID NOT DISPUTE MY ASSERTION THAT THE TERRITORIAL THREAT TO SOMALIA WAS LESS THAN HE PERCEIVED. HE IS ALSO DISAPPOINTED BY THE LACK OF ACTIVITY IN THE
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WAKE OF THE SPECIAL EMISSARY'S MISSION. I DO BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE MADE EXPLICIT OUR SEVERAL RDSERVATIONS ON THE GSDR'S SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED WSLF ACTIVITY. I DO NOT BELIEVE WE CAN EXERCISE MUCH INFLUENCE ON THIS ASPECT OF GSDR RELATIONS, HOWEVER, UNTIL SIAD HAS A BETTER IDEA OFF WHAT MILITARY SUPPORT HE MAY HOPE TO OBTAIN FROM US. IN KEEPING WITH HIS TACTICS, HE IS STILL TRYING TO UP THE ANTE. I NEED NOT REMIND THE DEPT HE IS STILL RELUCTANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE ANY POLICY DIFFICULTIES ON OUR SIDE. FOR BREVITY'S SAKE, I HAVE OMITTED MY SEVERAL REJOINDERS TO HIS ARGUMENTS. I HOPE I MAY ANTICIPATE RECEIPT OF MY NEXT INSTRUCTIONS WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, BUT I DID THINK IT NECESSARY TO INFORM SIAD THIS MORNING THAT HIS APPEAL OF FORTY-EIGHT HOURS AGO WAS HEARD.
LOUGHRAN UNQUOTE VANCE

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